

# TRUMAN VA BULLETIN

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## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

**Staci Findley (PS)** –  
Employee of the  
Month (September)

**Kimberly Brooks (CS)** –  
Customer Service Star  
of the Month (July)

## VA INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAM

The 2009-2010 goals for VA's Influenza Vaccination Program are as follows:

Within each VA health care facility, increase the seasonal influenza vaccination rate of employees to at least 70 percent.

Within each VA health care facility, increase the seasonal influenza vaccination rate of Veteran patients to at least 75 percent.

Within each VA health care facility, increase the seasonal influenza vaccination rate of women Veteran patients to at least 75 percent.

Promote prevention, education and vaccine

recommendations for novel H1N1 influenza.

Promote consistent and proper documentation and tracking for all influenza vaccinations.

Promote non-vaccine methods of preventing infection, particularly hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Encourage the entire VA health care community to promote and support influenza vaccination.

Truman VA opened its walk-in seasonal Flu Shot Clinic on Sept. 14. The clinic, which operates from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, is located in room B-134. Veterans with appointments in Primary

Care, Behavioral Health and Chemotherapy will receive their seasonal influenza vaccinations in those clinics. Employee seasonal influenza vaccinations also began this week in Employee Health and will start Oct. 15 at worksites. To insure better service, please call Employee Health at extension 56463 before going there. Questions about seasonal influenza vaccinations should be directed to **Becky Rahmoeller, RN** at extension 56338.

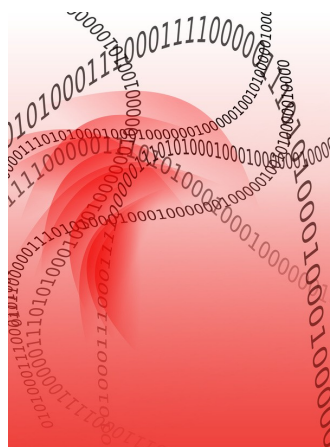
Information concerning the novel H1N1 influenza vaccinations will be provided as it becomes available.

## NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September 2009 marks the sixth annual National Preparedness month. You can prepare for emergencies by taking simple steps such as organizing an emergency supply kit, developing and practicing a personal preparedness plan, becoming informed

about different threats and getting involved in preparing your community. Plan now to ensure the well-being of your family and community. For more information, see [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov).





## SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM ADDS ONLINE “CHAT”

VA's Suicide Prevention campaign is expanding its outreach to all Veterans by piloting an online, one-to-one “chat service” for Veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet. Called “Veterans Chat,” the new service enables Veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor.

Veterans, family members or friends can access Veterans Chat through the suicide prevention Web site ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)). There is a Veterans tab on the left-hand side of the Web site that will take them directly to Veteran resource information. On this page, they can see the Hotline number (1-800-273-TALK), and click on the Veterans Chat tab on the right side of the Web page to enter.

Veterans retain anonymity by entering whatever names they choose once they enter the one-on-one

chat. They are then joined by a counselor that is trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller. If the counselor decides the caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the Veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, where a trained suicide prevention counselor will determine whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

The pilot program, which has been in operation since July 3, has already had positive results. In one instance, the online counselor determined that a Veteran in the chat required immediate assistance. The counselor convinced the Veteran to provide the counselor with a home telephone number and then remained in the chat room with the Veteran while the hotline staff called the number and talked to the Veteran's mother. The hotline counselor worked with the Veteran's mother to convince

the Veteran to be admitted to a medical facility for further treatment.

The chat line is not intended to be a crisis response line. Chat responders are trained in an intervention method specifically developed for the chat line to assist people with emotional distress and concerns. They have procedures they can use to transfer chatters in crisis to the hotline for more immediate assistance. Both Veterans Chat and the VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline have been established under the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which was established through collaboration between VA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services. Since becoming operational in July 2007, VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline has received more than 150,000 calls, resulting in 4,000 rescues.

## RECYCLE VHS TAPES

Alternative Community Training (ACT) is a not-for-profit organization located in Columbia. ACT provides jobs for people with disabilities that erase VHS tapes, resell those in good

shape and recycle the plastic parts of the rest. To date, more than one million tapes have been recycled. The address is 2200 Burlington, Columbia, Mo. 65202.



Be Kind. **Recycle!**

## O I & T CORNER: TO Google™ OR NOT?

Internet search engines have made an invaluable contribution to how we look up digital information. The instantaneous answers at our fingertips really define the information age we are living in. Today, most day-to-day research begins online and if done properly can answer the majority of inquiries. Google dominance among search engines is well established. In fact, It has become nearly synonymous with the Internet and most people know what it means to “just Google it” when looking for an answer. Searching in Google is easy. Just type in what you are looking for and Google will list results based on your query. Most basic searches provide adequate results and can lead you to what you had in mind. However, sometimes a basic search comes back with results so ambiguous that the one-million plus hit results are useless. For instance, try searching the word **Veteran** and you will get results with more than 52 million hits. Here are a few quick tech tips that can help refine your technique to make the most of your searches. (Note: The square brackets will signal queries; so [veterans] means a search for just that: veterans.)

☞ Keep searches to the point with choice descriptive words. Though the query [in what country was

pasta invented] may answer your question, a better search would be [pasta origin].

☞ Here is a tip many people do not know: Google offers a few helpful mathematical, currency and time searches. For basic arithmetic searches try this: [987 \* 34] or [54 / 9]. To get a percentage: [22 % of 100]. Convert number systems: [160 in hexadecimal]. Convert units: [22 inches in centimeters]. Convert currencies: [200 Euro in American Dollars]. Search the time around the globe: [time:Tokyo].

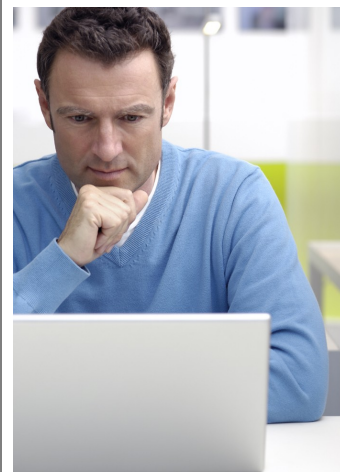
☞ Now for a more advanced tip. A more accurate type of search is to perform website-specific searches. For example [jazz guitar site:edu] shows all indexed pages specific to .edu websites about jazz guitar. Note that a website address that contains .edu is an education based site. By following this pattern [topic site:url] you can narrow your searches to a specific part of the Internet. Can you see the pattern and if so what and where do you think [veterans affairs site:missouri.edu] would query? Try it.

☞ Another useful advanced search is the [topic filetype:file extension] query. If you follow the pattern similar to the exam-

ples above you can understand the idea. An example [smoking policy filetype:doc] returns searches about smoking policy with a .doc extension. Try [hematology filetype:pdf] returns Adobe Reader .pdf files on hematology. Try it to get the best idea or generate your own.

There are far more different types of Google searches available as this is only a small sample of what the giant search engine can handle. Trying to find that one specific thing can sometimes be a chore despite the vast amount of information and resources available online. Hopefully, these few basic tidbits can help you find that needle in the digital haystack. If not, consult our librarians, **Mark Fleetwood** (x56515) or **Barbara Michael** (x52704) for further assistance. Librarians are trained to know where to look and how to locate information and they will be happy to help. In the meantime, “Happy Googling.”

<http://www.google.com>





Dept. of Veteran Affairs,  
Columbia, MO

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital  
800 Hospital Drive  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000

On the Web:  
[www.columbiamo.va.gov](http://www.columbiamo.va.gov)

#### FAREWELL

**John Cunningham,**  
Pt. Services Assistant  
(HAS)

**Daniel Holley,**  
Recreational Aide  
(PS)

**Joann Piland, LPN**  
(PC)



New Employees: September 14, 2009

**Front Row (L-R):** Kyle Grant (Air Conditioning Technician, Facilities Management), Sudhir Batchu, MD (Specialty Care), Bridget Welborn, LPN (4MED, Patient Services), Michaela Kennedy, DRT IR/CT (Clinical Support) Linda Grissum, LPN (GI Lab, Patient Services), Bethany Hood (Medical Technician, Clinical Support)

**Back Row (L-R):** Mike Pepper (OI&T), Joe Spence (OI&T), Loy Puckett, MD (Specialty Care), Eric Eetbs, DO (Specialty Care), Michelle Blackwell, RN (Staff Nurse—4MED, Patient Services)

## DIVERSITY LEARNING MAP

To support VA's goal to be an employer of choice and to provide Veterans with high quality services, it is critical that all employees have a common understanding of the role of diversity in the workplace and its impact on our bottom line for Veterans and their families. The VA Diversity Learning Map is a visual, fun and thought-provoking approach that increases diversity aware-

ness among employees by initiating group discussions and activities. The learning map is an excellent tool to enhance diversity awareness, employee relations and customer service.

Members of Truman VA's EEO Committee are available to facilitate Diversity Learning Map training at staff meetings or other opportunities. If you are interested or would like-

more information, contact **Sara Hake**, EEO Program Manager, at extension 56316 or **Veronica Ramnarine**, EEO Committee Chair, at extension 56638.



Enjoy Your Freedom?  
Thank A Vet!